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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR

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DONALD G. MACGILL, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health.

W. OLDHAM,
Sanitary Inspector.

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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1949.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WARDLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health and Mortality of your district during 1949.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

1)	Area in Acres	3,192
11)	Population 1931 Census	4,793
	Registrar-General's Estimate of resident population 1949	4,432
111)	Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1949, according to the rate book	1,406
1V)	Rateable Value	30,774
V)	Sum represented by a penny rate	128
VI)	Industries - The chief industries carried out in the area are:- Cotton and Woollen Manufacturing, Silk Weaving, Wallpaper Printing, Dairy Farming and Light Engineering.	
(VII)	Unemployment - There has been no unemployment during the year.	

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS:	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	64	28	36
Illegitimate	6	3	3
STILL BIRTHS:			
Legitimate	2	1	1
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	1	1	-

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population

15.8

Still Births:

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births 28.0

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths	52	23	29

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population

Crude	11.7
Adjusted	9.1

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:

	Deaths.	Death Rate per 1,000 (Live & Still Births.
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Puerperal causes	Nil	Nil
Total	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births	14
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	16
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	9
Death from Measles (all ages)	-
Death from Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
Death from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-

Estimated Population Mid. 1949	Live Birth Rate.	Crude Death Rate.	Death Rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Death Rate from Cancer.	Per 1,000 Live Births.	Per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births.	Rate of Death under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births.
4.432							
Mean of 5 years 1944 - 1948...	14.6	14.7	0.44	1.70	Nil	Nil	47
Year 1948.....	14.0	15.7	0.71	1.90	Nil	Nil	33
Year 1949.....	15.8	11.7	Nil	2.03	Nil	Nil	14
Increase or decrease in 1949 on 5 years average 1944-1948	+1.2	-3.0	-0.44	+0.33	Nil	Nil	-33
Previous year	+1.8	-4.0	-0.71	+0.13	Nil	Nil	-19

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Smallpox.

No cases occurred during 1949.

Scarlet Fever.

Five cases reported included 1 adult and all were removed to hospital.

Diphtheria.

Again there were no cases.

Enteric Fever.

No cases.

Whooping Cough.

8 cases were notified.

Measles.

32 cases were notified.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

1 case occurred and was notified from Birch Hill Hospital.

Erysipelas.

One case notified.

Tuberculosis.

Only one new case has been notified.

Generally.

It is pleasing to note that no cases of Pphthalmia Neonatorum, Poliomyelitis, Dysentery or Cerebro-Spinal Fever has occurred. There were no epidemics during the year.

Pathological, etc. Examinations.

Diphtheria 4.

TABLE I.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1948.
(including cases notified from Birch Hill).

"NOTIFIABLE DISEASES"	Total cases at all ages.	Total cases notified. Years 0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65 and over.	Total deaths.	Hospital. Total cases removed to hospital from district.	Deaths in hospital of persons belonging to district.
Smallpox.....													
Scarlet Fever....	5			1	2	1		1				5	
Diphtheria (including membranous croup).....													
Enteric or Typhoid fever (excluding paratyphoid).....													
Paratyphoid fever.													
Measles (excluding Rubella).....	32		15	4	12	1							
Whooping Cough...	8	1	5	1	1								
Acute Pneumonia..													
Puerperal Pyrexia	1						1						
Cerebro-spinal fever.....													
Acute Poliomyelitis													
Acute Polio-Encephalitis....													
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica.....													
Dysentery.....													
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....													
Erysipelas.....	1									1			
Malaria.....													
Food Poisoning...													
	47	1	20	6	15	2	1	1	-	1	Nil	5	-

Table II.
TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1949.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0 -								
1 -								
2 -								
5 -								
10 -								
15 -								
20 -								
25 -	1							
35 -								
45 -								
55 -								
65 -								
75 and upwards								
	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED IN 1949, apart from Tuberculosis were 47, as compared with 46 in 1948 and a comparative table below:-

	1948	1949
Scarlet Fever	3	5
Diphtheria	0	0
Measles	32	32
Whooping Cough	5	8
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	0
Puerpural Pyrexia	2	1
Erysipelas	2	1
Infective Hepatitis	1	0
	46	47

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN 1949:-

	Males	Females.
Syphilitic Diseases	0	1
Cancer	4	5
Diabetes	0	1
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	3	3
Heart Diseases	6	8
Diseases of circularory system	2	0
Bronchitis	4	3
Ulcers of Stomach or Duodenum	1	0
Premature Birth	1	0
Suicide	1	1
All other causes	1	7
Total deaths	23	29

I am chiefly indebted for the information regarding unnotifiable diseases, to the returns of sickness in schools supplied to me by the Schools Attendance Officer.

I should like to express my appreciation of the efficient assistance given to me by Mr. C. Haigh and Mr. W. Oldham.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours obediently,

DONALD G. MACGILL,

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1950.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR, 1949.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE WARDLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

My report for the year ending 31st December, 1949, is as follows:-

GENERAL SURVEY.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The works are being worked to full capacity and the samples taken by the River Board are either border-line or unsatisfactory. Since the works were re-designed some 200 houses have been built and the filtering media is now old, clogged, and there is no margin available for periodic resting. No aluminoferric has been used during the year.

One storm tank is leaking and will have to be repaired.

The detritus tanks have developed a settlement crack and will shortly need buttressing.

The piped sewers throughout the district have given no trouble and the intake of the syphon has not been blocked during the year.

The pumping gear at the sewage works is in good order and farmers have now removed the entire accummulation of sewage sludge.

Infectious Diseases.

Five cases of Scarlet Fever occurred and after removal to hospital the premises were disinfected.

House Refuse.

A weekly collection is made during the months of January, to April, October to December, inclusive and during the remaining five months fortnightly collections are made. This service was materially improved by the purchase of a specially constructed refuse waggon which took the place of an open type vehicle.

Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping at the Council's tip in Ashbrook and without complaint.

Overcrowding.

During the year the Council's Housing Programme included four bedroom type houses which enabled six families to be moved into suitable houses. Any cases not dealt with were those who could not afford the rents of Post-War Houses and will be specially considered for the Pre-War Houses when any become available.

Cowsheds.

Prior to October 1949 some 17 cowsheds were visited without complaint.

Slaughterhouses.

three licenced slaughter houses are used occasionally for the slaughter of self-supply pigs.

Bakehouses.

The bakehouses have been visited and found satisfactory.

Meat Shops.

These shops on the whole maintain a good standard.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The district is supplied with water by the Rochdale Corporation in sufficient quantity and of good quality. No complaints were received during the year. Outlying cottages and farms are supplied by wells and springs and no complaints have been received either about quality or quantity throughout the year.

Drainage and Sewerage.

All the sewage from the district is treated at the Council's works at New Mill, the method of treatment being by precipitation tanks, continuous filters and humus tanks. No extensions to the system was carried out during the year.

Rivers and Streams.

The Lancashire Rivers Board deals with the pollution of the rivers and streams in this district. Ashbrook is far from satisfactory and is often seriously polluted on its way through the district.

Closet Accommodation.

The Council continue to pay a £4 contribution towards the cost of converting pail closets to fresh water flush type.

Smoke Abatement.

Ten smoke observations were taken and in each case proved to be in order.

Schools.

The Sanitary conditions of the schools in the district is good.

Offensive Trades.

No nuisance has occurred from the only fellmonger in the district.

TABLE III.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

	1949	1948	1930
Privy Middens	28	28	55
No. of closets attached to Middens	26	26	55
No. of Pail Closets	82	87	156
No. of Fresh Water Closets	901	840	394
No. of Waste Water Closets	8	8	50
No. of dry Ashpits	4	4	9
No. of Ashbins	1,011	956	473
No. of houses on Water Carriage system	901	848	444

During the year three pails were converted to fresh water flush closets and two redundant as houses were closed.

TABLE IV.

INSPECTIONS 1949.

	Inspections	Defects	Remedied.
Housing	282	87	77
Factories	20	1	1
Dairies	49	3	3
Slaughterhouses	20	0	0
Bakehouses	24	0	0
Nuisances	160	129	122
	555	219	203

I wish to place on record my appreciation for the help of Mr. C. Haigh, Clerk of the Council, and the staff, for the ready and willing help on all occasions.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
W. OLDHAM,
Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE V.

LIST OF ACTS AND SECTIONS THEREOF ADOPTED BY THE WARDLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (Part III) Adopted 15th May, 1891.

2. Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889. Adopted 6th April, 1899.

3. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Parts II and III (excepting S48) IV and V. Operative from 5th October, 1911.

4. Private Street Works Act, 1892. Operative from 5th October, 1911.

5. Notification of Births Act, 1907. Operative from 13th October, 1914.

6. Public Health Act, 1925 (Parts II, III and IV) Operative from 31st January, 1927.

7. Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899-1923. Adopted 2nd August, 1934.

Observations as to their administration - Good.